

# E-News

May 2012

## WHAT'S NEW

### MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Kris Chand, COABC Vice-president and Carmen Wakeling, past COABC Vice-president met with Minister of Agriculture, Don McRae, on April 12, 2012 in Courtenay.

Among the many items discussed was the maintenance of the Canada Organic standard. Minister McRae requested more information so he could bring the issue forward with the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz.

Once again, the confusion caused by the use of "organic" labeling, was highlighted. COABC informed the minister that this confusion is having a negative impact on the Organic sector. Certification programs are losing members because they do not see the benefit of being certified at this time. The Minister was attentive to the issues and reiterated that the Ministry would continue to work with COABC.

### NEW OSDP FUNDING RATIO

The Organic Sector Development Program is pleased to announce an improved funding ratio for applicants. The new ratio means that the applicant must provide only 30% of the total project cost, while the OSDP provides the remaining 70%.

The OSDP supports industry-led initiatives that seize opportunities, respond to new and emerging issues, and path-find, piloting solutions to new and ongoing issues in order to help the sector adapt. The organic sector is encouraged to bring innovative ideas to the OSDP. COABC is able to offer the OSDP through the generous support of the Investment Agriculture Foundation and the Government's Growing Forward Program.

To get more information or to apply to the fund, please visit <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp.php>

**Next OSDP deadline:** June 22, 2012

### BCOG NOW AVAILABLE

The Spring issue of the BC Organic Grower is now out. Check out the full conference review. Some of the presenters at the 2012 conference have written articles as well. So if you missed the conference, catch up with the BCOG.

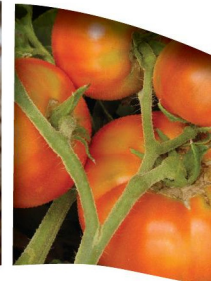
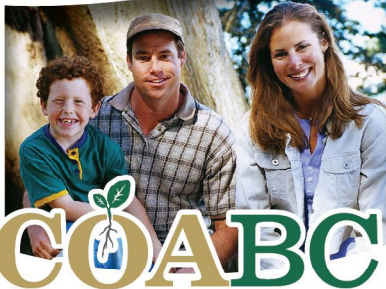
COABC is looking to widen the circulation of the BC Organic Grower. To encourage participation, the BCOG is being offered to retailers at a wholesale price. If you or your local retailer are interested in helping us spreading the organic news, please contact [admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

## ONGOING

### NEWSLETTERS FROM SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Every month the COABC receives newsletters from organizations with related interests or with whom we are members. So as not to repeat everything written, take a moment to read their newsletters.

- **BC Agriculture Council** COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat. Check out the Advocate at their new website, <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f79d2a33b823f8c549069c39b&id=016ec7de33&e=3525e11d04>
- **BCSPCA** [http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=5321.0&dlv\\_id=16041](http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em_id=5321.0&dlv_id=16041)
- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>
- **Shared Harvest** <http://www.sharedharvestBC.blogspot.com>



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## **BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK LOGO**

**ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.**

The logo of the BC Certified Organic program is a key tool to identify certified organic products in BC. It is important that the symbol is used correctly; here is a quick reminder, especially for websites and the exclusion zone (white space.)

The Program Symbol is enclosed by a black border. The border ensures that the appropriate white space or exclusion zone is provided around the composite mark. The Program Symbol must be enclosed by the border if the Symbol is applied against colored or complex backgrounds. However, if the background is white or off-white, it may be desirable to omit the border while ensuring the appropriate exclusion zone.

## **INTERESTING**

### **THE VANCOUVER URBAN FARMING FORUM REPORT**

Urban farming is a rapidly growing practice in cities throughout the World. Vancouver is no exception with many urban farms emerging over the past five years. These urban farms exhibit unique entrepreneurial approaches to commercial food production which contribute to social, ecological and economic aspects of urban sustainability

Read the full report [vancouver-urban-farming-forum2011\\_summaryreport.pdf](http://vancouver-urban-farming-forum2011_summaryreport.pdf)

### **BC BERRY AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION GUIDES NOW ON-LINE**

The BC Production Guides have long been recognized as the key references for the safe, sustainable and competitive production for crops in BC.

The new online berry and vegetable crop production guides powered by the AgriFoodBC web platform are freely accessible to all commercial growers in a user-friendly format and contain the latest beneficial management practices including information on varieties, culture and pest management. The guides can be located at

<http://productionguide.agrifoodbc.ca>.

## **EVENTS**

### **FERTILITY FESTIVAL2012**

Date: May 11, 2012

Location: Summerhill Pyramid Winery, Kelowna, BC

Cost: \$15 admission, \$10 students

Time: 2:00 pm – 1:00 am

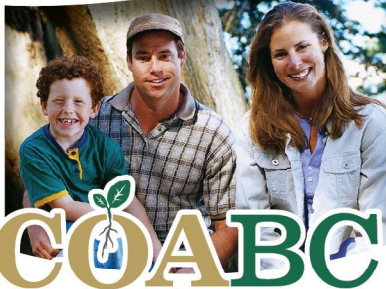
This event will be indoors and outdoors all over the Summerhill grounds. The various zones are: Art gallery paintings and sculpture in the vineyard, Speakers and art installation in the pyramid, drumming/acoustics and storytelling in the Makwala Kekuli, musical stage #1 with seedling perennial, indigenous plant sale and Gaia craft on picnic/wedding area, musical stage #2 and crafters venue in events hall indoors. There will be organic food, beer and wine available, a shuttle to more parking at the bottom of the hill, carpooling with D.D. to this event is encouraged. We are booking a shuttle to the Bus depot at KLO campus. Gabe Cipes key note speaker; Demeter- Biodynamic status at Summerhill. For more information email [wendy@okanagangreens.ca](mailto:wendy@okanagangreens.ca).

### **SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC FARMING INSTITUTE - FOR THE NORTH**

Date: May 12 & 27, 2012

Location: Twin Meadows Organics

Time: 10am -4pm



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Cost: \$25.00 - \$75.00

The purpose of this institute, is to provide a safe place to learn those practical hands on skills, as well as the needed marketing and business models to strategically chart your farm for long term financial security. Our goal is not to “convert” anyone to this way of life, but simply to share our journey and encourage like minded folk. Join us for training workshops in May. For more information and to register visit [http://www.sofinorth.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.sofinorth.com/Home_Page.html)

## **FOOD MARKETING 101:WORKSHOPS**

Date: May 16– June 15, 2012, 9am - noon

Location: The workshops are delivered via live video conferencing at any of the following Community Futures venues: Abbotsford, Courtenay, Cranbrook, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George and Williams Lake.

Cost: \$50.00

Registration: <http://www.foodinnovationcentre.ca/> or by phone (Bill Henderson) 250-889-9162

This four-part workshop series begins on March 15, and will be simulcast to locations around the province. It is geared toward both food producers and food processors. In these four workshops, producers and processors will learn: Why food marketing needs a different approach, The best way to promote and sell your products, What consumers want and how to give it to them, If you and your product are ready to go to market. For more information visit, <http://www.foodinnovationcentre.ca/what-we-do/training-services/food-marketing-101/>

## **ADVANCED SOIL, COMPOST & COMPOST TEA WORKSHOP**

Date: June 7-10, 2012, 9am - 5pm

Location: Vernon, BC

Cost: \$499 + HST

Register: <http://www.elementcodesign.com/compost-secrets-with-doug-weatherbee/>

Element Eco-Design has the opportunity to host the Soil Doctor, Doug Weatherbee for a 4 day intensive workshop. The workshop will cover such topics as: soil life, worm composting and composting techniques for both home and farm scale operations. Whether you are interested in making compost your career or you just want the best veggies on the block, this course is for you.

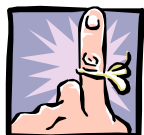
## **BC FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK GATHERING**

Date: July 5-8, 2012

Location: Gambier Island, BC

Cost: \$295 (Earlybird rate)

The theme of the Gathering is **Reclaiming our Food Systems: Policy and Practice**. A food system is defined as the resources and processes that are required to feed a population. It includes producing, processing, shipping, storing, selling and consuming food, as well as the management of waste associated with all of these processes. Most of our current food policy supports the industrial food system. One of the goals of the Network is to develop and advocate policies to redesign food systems to alleviate hunger and promote sustainability - food policy that places community food security as the highest priority. For more information visit, <http://fooddemocracy.org/>.



## **REMEMBER...**

**Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help** <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>

*If you change your address or contact information send it to your CB office as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on receiving a BCOG and other materials.*